

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS)	
)	
Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and)	
Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Illinois)	
Public Utilities Act, and an Order pursuant to Section 8-)	Docket No. 12-0598
503 of the Public Utilities Act, to Construct, Operate and)	
Maintain a New High Voltage Electric Service Line and)	
Related Facilities in the Counties of Adams, Brown,)	
Cass, Champaign, Macon, Clark, Coles, Edgar, Fulton,)	
Macon, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike,)	
Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott and Shelby, Illinois.)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF INTERVENOR LEON CORZINE

NOW comes Intervenor Leon Corzine, through his attorneys, and files his direct testimony in this proceeding in the form of the Affidavit attached as Corzine-Exhibit 1.

DATED this 28th day of March, 2013

By: /s Christopher M. Ellis
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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 12-0598

DIRECT TESTIMONY

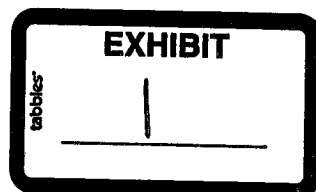
OF

LEON CORZINE

Submitted On Behalf Of

INTERVENOR LEON CORZINE

MARCH 28, 2013



ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 12-0598

AFFIDAVIT OF LEON CORZINE

Leon Corzine, having been first duly sworn on her oath deposes and says as follows:

1. My name is Leon Corzine. I was born and raised on our family farm. I am a 5th generation farmer and farm with my son, Craig, who is the 6th generation on our farm and my wife Susie. We grow corn, soybeans and have a few Angus cows and calves.

2. My Dad and Granddad taught me to be a good steward of our land. Our mantra is to leave the farm better than we found it. We strive to do this. Part of this stewardship led me to leadership in the corn world. I am past president of both the Illinois Corn Growers Association and the National Corn Growers Association. I am on numerous advisory boards for the University of Illinois, USDA, and private industry. Recently, on the Advisory Committee for Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture, we spent a lot of time looking at the future of agriculture, wherein we discuss stewardship and sustainability and wise use of our productive land.

3. In Illinois, the greatest resource we have is our land. Illinois has the most productive farmland in the world. I have traveled the world on behalf of Illinois and US Agriculture, and can verify that Illinois has the best farmland. I can also verify the extent of my work if you like.

4. We have a responsibility to utilize this great resource to the benefit of society and to also protect this blessing we have. Part of this responsibility is to preserve the viability of our land and not allow random encroachment of these lands by those without the understanding and appreciation of what we do on our land and the importance of it. I would not be upholding my

pledge to my father and grandfather if I did not stand before you challenging the Pana to Mt. Zion primary route portion of this project.

5. We own 155 acres and rent another 80 from family members that are affected by this proposal. This is the first farm I purchased with my dad. There are 2 sets of power lines on this farm that were on the land when we purchased it. These obstacles are a hardship especially when you consider the major drainage system that also passes through the farm. We were able to purchase this farm at a lower price because of these obstacles.

6. Now, AMEREN has decided to put a new set of power lines parallel to the others because it is easy for them:

1) First, the land is flat and very productive. Placing the new poles here is easier.

2) Second, it is easier because farmers and landowners are not notified until the process is nearly complete. We are allowed into the process only as an afterthought. If we have any objection, the deck is stacked against us.

3) Third, when an alternate route is proposed it affects other farmers and landowners. I think this is by design. It pits farmers against farmers further preventing farmers organizing.

4) Fourth, AMEREN pushed legislation in 2007 to allow for an expedited process. It passed because most legislators believed the expedited process would be for projects of less than 5 miles. This one, as you know, is over 330 miles affecting hundreds if not thousands of farmers and landowners. Once again we have very little time to be involved at the end of the game.

7. I submit there is a better way especially when you look at the future. I have been told there are up to 12 more projects of power lines and pipe lines in the works to cut across our heartland. We need a coordinated approach to upgrading our power grid that includes those most disadvantaged – farmers and landowners. This means at the beginning or planning stages of these projects, not as an afterthought when the decisions have already been made.

8. My circumstance is the perfect example. As I mentioned, AMEREN has decided it is a good idea to put a third set of poles on my farm. Multiple lines have a multiplier effect.

Our equipment is getting bigger and we would be working around poles on nearly every round, which not only takes additional time but also means we double plant and double spray every time which is not good for the environment. Our site specific planting, fertility, spraying, and harvest, which are controlled by satellite and radio signals, will be limited or completely unusable. The equipment and technology we have to improve the environment and productivity doesn't work. I cannot use aerial application for plant protection or cover crops. The seed corn company is no longer interested in this farm. My banker is not happy about additional easements encumbering a farm that he has a mortgage on. The value of the farmland goes down.

9. The Route 51 corridor would be a much better alternative route, and it would create substantially less hardship on farmers and landowners. Route 51 has been upgraded and goes around every town between Pana and Mt. Zion. This is a very good choice for all the reasons mentioned. No farmland is disadvantaged. I was told by AMEREN representatives at a meeting that the reason the Route 51 corridor was not considered as a potential option for this project is because AMEREN did not want to deal with IDOT. This tells me it is easier to 'roll' unorganized farmers and landowners. I fear I am correct.

10. As soon as I learned of this project, I have taken the necessary steps and gone through the process to protect my land. I learned at a public meeting in Pana in June of 2012 what was being considered. I also learned the process to go to their website to offer comments. I did this and went the extra step of also emailing to AMEREN officials I met at the meeting. In October, I learned my comments were "lost". I received no confirmation or acknowledgement from AMEREN or their official. Later, after proving my emails were sent, they apparently found my comments.

11. I learned of the proposed primary route during October meetings, adding to the aforementioned hardship and ignoring the proposed alternative. I pleaded for someone from AMEREN to come to my farm so I could show them first-hand what they would do to my farm with this proposed route. They refused saying they did not have time. AMEREN wants to have a negative effect on me, my son, my grandchildren, my great grandchildren, my great-great grandchildren, and beyond...and they do not have time to consider the impact first-hand. Rather they will stay behind their desk and dictate as long as we let them.

12. I submit we are talking about property rights as well as the future viability of our great state including my family. Please consider a better way.

- a) Force our so called "public" utility to communicate and work with our state entities (IDOT) and put these lines where farms are not disadvantaged.
- b) Remove this project from the expedited process that I feel you do not like either. This is too big a project to gloss over and allow power companies to push projects saying they do not have time to consider the future of my farm and others they are affecting.
- c) It is also a good idea to put a moratorium in place for all these projects until we develop a coordinated approach to all this. Our state and our land deserves better than a random approach to these projects.

Dated: March 28, 2013


LEON CORZINE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF MACON) SS

Signed and Sworn to before me, a Notary in the County and State aforesaid by Leon
Corzine on this the 28th day of March, 2013.

Donna J. Whitsett
NOTARY PUBLIC



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Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott and Shelby, Illinois.)	

NOTICE OF FILING

Please take notice that on March 28, 2013, the undersigned attorney caused the Direct Testimony of Intervenor Leon Corzine to be filed via e-Docket with the Chief Clerk of the Illinois Commerce Commission in the above-referenced proceeding.

By: /s Christopher M. Ellis
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